

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

JUN FUJIMOTO

Application No. Unassigned

Filed: February 19, 2002

For: CURRENCY CONTROL SYSTEM
AND PORTABLE SAFE

Art Unit: Unassigned

Examiner: Unassigned

PENDING CLAIMS AFTER ENTRY OF PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

1. A currency control system comprising:
a game-related device having a currency holding section for holding currency;
a portable safe removably attachable to said game-related device, and functioning as said currency holding section when attached to said game-related device; and
a currency control device to which said portable safe is removably attachable, said currency control device providing for at least one of (i) holding currency in said portable safe and (ii) retrieving currency held in said portable safe from said portable safe.
2. The currency control system according to claim 1, wherein said currency holding section provides for at least one of (i) holding currency inserted from outside the device and (ii) holding currency to be discharged outside the device.
3. The currency control system according to claim 1, comprising a system control computer providing unitary control of quantities of currency in said game-related device, said portable safe, and said currency control device.
4. The currency control system according to claim 1, comprising an anomaly detection device for detecting an anomaly occurring in said portable safe.
5. The currency control system according to claim 4, wherein said anomaly detection device detects an anomaly when said portable safe is not attached to one of said game-related device and said currency control device.
6. The currency control system according to claim 4, wherein said anomaly detection device is located on said portable safe.

7. The currency control system according to claim 4, comprising an anomaly notifying section for issuing an anomaly notification when said anomaly detection device detects an anomaly.

8. The currency control system according to claim 4, wherein said anomaly detection device detects a destructive anomaly for said portable safe.

9. The currency control system according to claim 4, wherein said anomaly detection device detects an anomaly when said portable safe is neither attached to said game-related device nor to said currency control device for too long a time.

10. The currency control system according to claim 4, wherein said anomaly detection device includes a positional anomaly detection device detecting an anomaly based on position of said portable safe.

11. The currency control system according to claim 10, wherein said positional anomaly detection device is located at a position separate from said portable safe.

12. The currency control system according to claim 3, wherein attaching said portable safe to and removing said portable safe from said game-related device or said currency control device requires an operator's card of an authorized operator to be inserted into said game-related device or said currency control device.

13. The currency control system according to claim 12, wherein said operator's card has an operator's code recorded thereon, said system control computer has the operator's code registered in advance and corresponding to the operator, and agreement of the operator's code recorded on said operator's card with the operator's code registered in said system control computer is at least one condition for determining authority of an authorized operator.

14. The currency control system according to claim 13, wherein the operator's code recorded on said operator's card includes an operator's peculiar code peculiar to the operator and a random number generated and affixed to the peculiar code when a specified event occurs.

15. The currency control system according to claim 1, wherein said portable safe exchanges information in wireless communication with said game-related device to which

said portable safe is attached or with said currency control device to which said portable safe is attached.

16. A portable safe removably attachable to a game-related device used by players and removably attachable to a currency control device for dispensing and retrieving currency, comprising:

a housing for holding currency; and

an antenna located on said housing for exchanging information in wireless communication with said game-related device and said currency control device, wherein

said housing includes a currency insertion window section, a currency discharging window section, a first shutter plate closing said currency insertion window section, a second shutter plate closing said currency discharging window section, a lock mechanism for locking said first and second shutter plates, and an unlocking mechanism for unlocking said lock mechanism upon detecting attachment of said portable safe to said game-related device or said currency control device and

said portable safe functions as a currency holding section of said game-related device when attached to said game-related device and as a currency holding section of said currency control device when attached to said currency control device.

17 The portable safe according to claim 16, including an anomaly detection device for detecting an anomaly occurring in said portable safe.

18 The portable safe according to claim 17, wherein said anomaly detection device detects an anomaly when said portable safe is neither attached to said game-related device nor to said currency control device.

19 The portable safe according to claim 17, comprising an anomaly notifying section for issuing an anomaly notification when said anomaly detection device detects an anomaly.

20 The portable safe according to claim 17, wherein said anomaly detection device detects a destructive anomaly for said portable safe.

21 The portable safe according to claim 17, wherein said anomaly detection device detects an anomaly when said portable safe is neither attached to said game-related device nor said currency control device for too long a time.

22 The portable safe according to claim 17, wherein said anomaly detection device includes a positional anomaly detection device detecting an anomaly based on position of said portable safe.